

Ruhland Probes Fee Collections At Gallinger

Declares Auditor
Lacks Full Information
On Situation

Health Officer George C. Ruhland today launched an investigation into charges by District Auditor Arthur R. Pilkerton that only a small percentage of fees that should have been collected at Gallinger were paid and charged that Mr. Pilkerton's suggestion for a medical officer in charge of the hospital permit bureau was "incompetently given."

Ruhland took this step after the District auditor had reported to the Commissioners that in a 15-month period only \$75,154 had been collected out of \$291,435 that should have been collected from patients at Gallinger Municipal Hospital.

Mr. Pilkerton had also suggested that the Commissioners "give consideration" to placing a medical officer in charge of the permit bureau. Dr. Ruhland said he felt it was unfortunate that Mr. Pilkerton had expressed an opinion on a subject about which he was not adequately informed.

Plans Investigation.

Dr. Ruhland issued the following statement:

"The statement of criticism attributed to Mr. Pilkerton concerning patients admitted to District institutions obviously suggests an investigation. So far as the Health Department is concerned it will check these statements. However, it is a matter that should be reported to the District Commissioners and we shall do just that. All the facts will be presented."

"As to Mr. Pilkerton's recommendation that Dr. N. West, head of the hospital permit bureau, be replaced by a physician, I have this to say:

"Criticism from one branch of a service to another is of questionable value. Doubtless this criticism concerning Mr. West is based on a full understanding of the needs of the service and therefore incompetently given."

"The report to the Commissioners will be forthcoming shortly."

Bureau Inadequately Staffed.

Dr. Ruhland said there was no doubt that Mr. West's bureau, which has the responsibility of investigating the financial status of patients, was inadequately staffed. Pointing out that the bureau had requested seven medical social workers, two for Gallinger, one for Glenn Dale Sanatorium, and four for the bureau, he said only two social workers had been obtained and they were assigned to the bureau itself.

Dr. Ruhland said that when a patient, deemed able to pay, leaves Gallinger his bill should go to the collector of taxes office. Certain cash payments are made to the business office of Gallinger.

In his report to the Commissioners, Mr. Pilkerton claimed that only \$76,000 in delinquent accounts had been referred to the collector of taxes office and said it is apparent that unit has received only about 25 per cent of the total cases, many of which go back one, two and three years, or to a time when it is next to impossible to locate the patient or collect the amount due.

Dr. Ruhland said there probably was not a service in the Municipal government that could not be criticized today in view of the manpower shortage, and he said he was anxious to have an investigation reveal any shortcomings that might exist.

Not Criticizing West.

Informed of Dr. Ruhland's statement, Mr. Pilkerton said he "definitely was not criticizing Mr. West," whom he termed a "very competent man." He said he had merely suggested to the Commissioners that a medical officer be placed in a better position to pass on the admission of emergency cases.

He said his report to the city heads was not intended as criticism, but was merely pointing out defects in the present system of admission and collection of fees.

That Mr. West's office was inadequately staffed and said the small percentage of bills turned over to the collector of taxes was probably due to an inadequate staff.

Cigarettes, Liquor Stolen

Sixty cartons of cigarettes and 115 bottles of liquor valued at \$440 were stolen yesterday from Carl's Market, 215 Tenth street S.W., according to a report to police by the proprietor, Carl Liberman.

Lack of Civilian Nurses Blamed On Army Policy

Many Not Practicing
Left Out of Bill, Says
Hospital Director

By CARTER BROOKE JONES
Voluntary recruiting of nurses has failed not only to meet the Army's urgent combat needs, but has had the effect of curtailing the number of nurses available to civilian hospitals, Dr. Arthur J. Will, director of hospitals for the County of Los Angeles, Calif., told the Senate Military Affairs Committee today.

Dr. Will, who was delayed in reaching the city and sent a statement which was placed in the record on hearings on the House-approved nurse draft bill, explained that most of the nurses who had gone into the armed forces had come from the comparatively small number in hospitals.

Los Angeles hospitals, he pointed out, are supposed to have 800 graduate nurses among their 5,000 employees, but actually have only 360 trained nurses at present, despite the fact that the county is paying top salaries as compared with the entire country. He attributed the "potentially dangerous condition" to "a lack of sufficient nurses willing to accept employment in the care of the sick." Of 9,000 nurses licensed to practice in Los Angeles County, he said, 4,500 are working at their profession and of that number 50 per cent are in private duty nursing or in industrial positions and not in hospitals.

Called Fundamental Threat.

"To draft nurses only for the armed forces," said Dr. Will, "would merely present an additional hardship on all civilian hospitals. The alternative might be the registration of all graduate nurses, regardless of age, to the end that many who are now engaged in the practice of nursing could be drawn into civilian hospital work."

It is apparent, he said, "that the voluntary program of recruitment of nurses has not only failed in its objective of providing sufficient nurses for the armed forces, but also has greatly curtailed the number of nurses working in civilian hospitals."

Mrs. Mildred Scott Olmstead, a social worker, representing the Women's Committee to Oppose Conscription, contended, "It will be a fundamental and lasting blow to American life to conscript women and it would fundamentally change the character of our country."

Several other witnesses also opposed the draft.

As the Senate committee continued its inquiry, the American Nurses' Association announced through a press representative that its nurses are applying for service in the Army at the rate of 700 a week. These figures were obtained from the Red Cross, the official recruiting agency.

Encouraged by Figures.

The War Department sent word to the nurses' organization, its official statement, that if it could obtain 1,400 applications a week, the War general's office estimated that the total of 60,000 which the Army requires could be enlisted by May 1. It was emphasized that these are applications and only a portion are fully accepted.

The War Department has given no indication that it has changed its attitude toward a draft. Surg. Gen. Norman T. Kirk and Undersecretary Patterson told the Senate committee a law setting up a selective service system for inducing nurses was "their opinion, but only way enough nurses could be found to assure adequate care for battle casualties."

The ANA, however, was encouraged by Red Cross figures to hope voluntary recruiting might solve the problem if the campaign for enlistments could be stepped up at once.

The War Department also advised the ANA that the procedure of commissioning nurses after they volunteered had been streamlined, so that the average elapsed time had been reduced to two weeks. The time for "processing" applications sent from the Red Cross to the Army had been cut to an average of four days.

Army Outlines Rules
On Discharging Wounded

Army enlisted men wounded in combat who have been returned from overseas may be discharged on their request under certain provisions, the War Department announced today. Those returned to the United States for temporary duty are clearly exempt under the regulations.

Provisions governing discharges of the wounded are:

Provided they are physically classified as permanently limited assignment, have been awarded the Purple Heart and have been determined as surplus to the needs of the Army as a whole.

No man will be considered surplus if an assignment is available appropriate to his grade or if such an assignment would release for overseas shipment a man who has not had service overseas.

Michael Kirby, 70, Dies;
Retired Businessman

Michael Kirby, 70, retired Washington businessman, died yesterday at his home, 5743 Thirteenth street N.W., after an illness of five days.

Born and educated in Washington, Mr. Kirby operated a tinning and roofing business here for more than 30 years and retired about 10 years ago. He was a member of the Local Order of the Moose and the Catholic Knights of America. His wife, Mary C. Kirby, died in 1942.

Funeral services will be held at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow at the residence, with requiem mass at the Church of the Nativity at 9 a.m. Burial will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Physiotherapists to Meet

The District Chapter of the American Physiotherapy Association will hold its March meeting at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the office of Dr. Custis Lee Hall in the Columbia Medical Building, 1801 I street N.W. David Amate, chief of the District Rehabilitation Service, will speak.



CHERRY BLOSSOMS ATTRACT CROWDS—This is part of the crowd of 200,000 persons who strolled beneath the cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin yesterday. Shown in the background is the gleaming whiteness of the Jefferson Memorial. The Palm Sunday crowd was of the size of last Easter's and was made up principally of spectators from the District and nearby areas, including thousands of service men and women.

Discovery of Knife In Corens' Cell Bank Starts Investigation

Montgomery County authorities today were investigating the circumstances under which a knife was concealed in the bank of Henry H. Corens, 44-year-old Bethesda automobile painter, who is awaiting trial on a charge of killing his wife, Pearl, 31.

The knife, described by County Sheriff Robert W. Farmer as being of the "ordinary pocket variety," was found under Corens' mattress in the Rockville jail. He said Joseph E. Moxley, a jailer, had received a tip that a knife was hidden in the bunk and had called police, who instituted a search.

Police said Corens disclaimed any knowledge of the knife. They added that his cellmate, Clyde Dodson, may have brought in the knife after working on county roads.

Sheriff Farmer said he planned to place Corens in a cell by himself for the March term of Circuit Court. His attorney, Harold C. Smith, has filed a motion for a bill of particulars in the case and had called for a hearing on the petition at 10 a.m. tomorrow in Rockville. Mr. Smith also has announced that he will file a motion for a change of venue.

Mrs. Corens' head was found February 27—more than two weeks after she had been reported missing from her home at 4515 Gladwyne drive, Bethesda—near a little-used road in the Dranesville section of Fairfax County. The torso has not been found.

Bill Would Remove Oath
On GI Benefit Papers

A bill eliminating the requirement of an oath on applications for benefits under all veterans' benefit laws and regulations administered by the Veterans' Administration has been introduced in the House by Representative Sessom, Democrat, of Maryland. The bill would eliminate the need for notarizing the applications.

The proposal was suggested by Selective Service Board No. 2 of Montgomery County. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

William F. Carlin of Silver Spring, president of the Service Aid Council, said that in the course of interviews with men being discharged from the services he had learned the requirement for notary seals have proved inconvenient and in some cases expensive to the veterans.

Passover Rites Planned
For St. Elizabeth's

The Hebrew Sisters' Aid Circle will sponsor special Passover services Wednesday night for Jewish patients in St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Packages containing matzos, fruit and special Passover delicacies will be distributed to those patients unable to take part in the services or the dinner following.

The packages, which also will go to patients and inmates of other public institutions, will be prepared tonight by the members at the Ohev Sholem Congregation, Fifth and I streets N.W.

Norfolk-Buffalo Trips
By PCA Start Sunday

First flights over a newly opened Pennsylvania Central Airlines route between Norfolk and Buffalo, including a stop in Washington, will take place Easter Sunday, J. J. Donovan, PCA vice president, said today. There will be a round-trip flight each day.

Also announced by the airline was the appointment of Jay C. Abbott, for several years an airline publicity representative in Washington, to be manager of a news bureau to be set up in New York by PCA.

Community Blood Bank Here Began With Hospital Tragedy

By GEORGE KENNEDY
Washington is one of the four cities in the country with a Community Blood Bank and the availability of its stock of blood plasma and fresh blood is due to a tragedy that occurred last year at Garfield Hospital. Dr. Roger M. Choisser, president of the blood bank revealed today.

Dr. Choisser, who is a pathologist at the George Washington University School of Medicine, took time from peering at glass slides smeared with human tissue to tell the story. "Physicians have long desired to have stocks of blood available at hospitals for immediate transfusions," he said, "ever since artificial refrigeration has made possible keeping plasma for years and whole blood for as much as two weeks."

"Cincinnati, Detroit and Miami have such banks. Washington has had a Community Blood Bank since last October.

"We are ready to get blood donors in three days. But sometimes they are needed immediately.

Midnight Call Falls.
"Last summer a young wife in the delivery room at Garfield began to hemorrhage. A call was sent out for blood donors. It was in the middle of the night. None could be located. The woman did not get a transfusion for 10 hours. She died."

"Her husband came in to see us and ask if something could not be done to avoid things like that happening in the future."

"There was in Washington a stock of 2,000 units of blood plasma. A stock built up for a possible community disaster due to an enemy air raid."

"The Civilian Defense organization built up this stock over a period of five months after Pearl Harbor. We had one patient in Georgetown Hospital getting seven to eight transfusions a day. We gave the doctor in charge assurances that he could go ahead and prescribe all the blood he felt necessary. The patient finally died—but not because of lack of blood transfusions."

Chiang Kai-shek Visits
Chennault Headquarters

By the Associated Press.
CHUNGKING, Mar. 26.—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek visited United States 14th Air Force headquarters in Yunnan Province Saturday.

Chiang expressed thanks to Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault and his officers for their accomplishments, and voiced the hope they would redouble their efforts to deal a fatal blow to Japan.

Many Content to Pay.

"But we have found that while 400 units from our stock of 2,000 have been used for transfusions in hospitals, people for the most part have been content with paying the \$15 a unit charge and not reducing it by donating blood in return. The 400 units used in the hospitals brought in only 100 return donations. So our blood bank's stock has been reduced to 1,700 units."

"At the Doctors Hospital, for instance, to which doctors send their well-to-do patients, almost all the people concerned seem to be content to pay the \$15 charge and hardly any donations result."

"We have been considering trying

Noel Loses Appeal To Oust Carmody as District Bar Head

The Court of Appeals today affirmed the District Court decision which dismissed a complaint brought by F. Regis Noel through which he sought unsuccessfully to oust John J. Carmody as president of the District Bar Association.

The suit, filed last July, charged Mr. Carmody was illegally holding office because the Bar Association's Nominating Committee named only one candidate for president in alleged violation of association by-laws.

"While affirming the District Court decision, which dismissed the complaint, the appellate court said:

"Had the case involved a stockholder with a financial interest in a corporation or had the election affected any property right of the petitioner, the facts stated in the petition would have required a hearing and a decision whether the election was valid."

The Court of Appeals' opinion, written by Justice Thurman Arnold, said, however, that the bar association "does not deal with property except incidentally. Its officers and members are solely interested in unremunerated public service. Its objectives are to maintain the honor and dignity of the profession and to promote the administration of justice."

Regardless of the technical correctness of the procedure under which respondent was elected, there is no doubt that he is the voluntary choice of the overwhelming majority who voted for the office of president of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. Nor does the record disclose any facts which reflect on the high character of the service which may be expected from the respondent during his tenure in office."

Chief Justice D. Lawrence Groner of the Court of Appeals and Justice Henry W. Edgerton heard the case in the appellate court with Justice Arnold.

Intolerance to Be Eased
By Army Life, Artist Says

Rockwell Kent, artist and illustrator, said last night the comradeship and respect fostered between American soldiers of different races fighting this war will have a "tremendous influence in destroying intolerance in the postwar world."

Mr. Kent spoke at a 15th anniversary celebration of the International Workers' Order at the Odd Fellows Hall, 419 Seventh street N.W.

As president of the fraternal organization, Mr. Kent appealed to residents of the Capital to set an example of racial tolerance for the country.

Shannon Bolin, contralto singer with the Columbia Broadcasting Co. here; Mort Freeman, a baritone soloist with the Jefferson Chorus in New York, and Tamara, an accordionist recently appearing at Radio City Music Hall in New York, were on the program.

Proceeds from the sale of tickets are to go to the chaplain's fund at Walter Reed Hospital.

Blackout Curtains Are Removed
From Windows at White House

The "blackout" curtains finally disappeared from the White House today.

Workmen for some time have been removing the heavy draperies hastily put in place after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, but this relaxation of wartime precautions became known generally when the workmen reached the press room in the executive offices today.

Hundreds of yards of a cotton material were used for the curtains, which are going into storage.

The military guard around the White House was reduced some time ago.

23 Held for Damaging Magnolias as 200,000 See Cherry Blossoms

Ravaged magnolia trees today were a reminder of the 200,000 visitors who streamed through Potomac Park yesterday to view the pink blossoming of the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin.

Although hundreds of spectators wore cherry blossoms in their hair and lapels, the serious damage was limited to the magnolia trees, Park Police Capt. Jerome B. Lawler reported.

Twenty-three persons, most of them women, posted \$5 collateral at the fourth precinct for snapping blossoms from magnolia trees. The only man arrested, Capt. Lawler explained, were those actually observed in the act of breaking the trees.

"People came to see the cherry trees, but for some reason the magnolias were the target of their attack," Capt. Lawler reported.

"There was no noticeable destruction to the cherry trees."

Capt. Lawler said it was the first time such widespread destruction had been recorded.

He added there were no signs to warn visitors against plucking the blossoms, but added, "We have no signs around fire plugs either. People should know better."

Because of the manpower shortage, the guards over the blossoms had been cut from four to two. The rest of the force was detailed to control traffic, stopping an estimated 20,000 cars to let pedestrians cross roads. Despite the traffic there were no traffic mishaps.

The crowd was of the size of last Easter's record number of visitors. Unlike prewar years when license plates from every State have been placed around the Tidal Basin, this year's crowd was limited mainly to District, Maryland and Virginia spectators.

Service men and women made up a large part of the crowd. None of them, however, were listed among the offenders who disfigured the magnolias.

Mother of Three Found
In Gas-Filled Kitchen

A 36-year-old mother of three children, who was discharged from St. Elizabeth's Hospital six days ago, was found by neighbors unconscious on the kitchen floor of her house last night with all burners on the stove open, according to police.

She was treated at Gallinger Hospital and admitted to the psychiatric ward for mental observation, police said. All the doors in the house were sealed with towels, according to police.

Dr. Winifred Overholser, superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, said the woman had been discharged on recommendation of the District Commission on Mental Health, but against the advice of hospital authorities.

Thomas Gillespie Walsh, chairman of the District Commission on Mental Health, said today he had no comment in connection with the case, beyond the fact that "the commission was merely of the opinion she was sufficiently improved to be discharged."

Randolph Calls Proposal
For Dams Unnecessary

Representative Randolph, Democrat, of West Virginia today called the Army engineers' plan for 14 dams in the Potomac River Basin "absolutely unnecessary."

In a telegram to newspapers of his district, Mr. Randolph said he considered the proposed dams "detrimental to the best development of the affected territory."

"The well being of worthwhile citizens would be jeopardized through an unconscionable extent by the program contemplated," he added.

He said he would make a "vigorous protest before the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors at the public hearing held April 3."

School Board May Ask Own Repair Shop

Dr. Gannon Reports
Buildings Neglected
Due to Other Jobs

The District's 176 school buildings are being neglected by the District repair shop, which maintains all other District government buildings, and therefore the schools should have their own repair shop, Dr. James A. Gannon, chairman of the Board of Education Finance Committee, will recommend to the full board next week.

The Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committees jointly conducted an exhaustive investigation of school repairs today.

W. A. Draper, engineer in charge of the repair shop, testified that 80 per cent of his work is on school buildings, but that at present he has been ordered by the Commissioners to give priority to a \$43,000 paint job for Gallinger Hospital.

"This priority against us is a shame when school buildings are deteriorating by the week for lack of paint," Dr. Gannon said. Another board member, Adelbert W. Lee, said the potty around some school doors could be pried away with a knife for lack of protective paint.

Urges Separate Repair Shop.

"Why Mr. Draper work for us?" C. Melvin Sharpe, a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, asked.

Dr. Gannon, presiding over the meeting at the Franklin School, said that the joint use of school buildings by both school children and the general public in night recreation programs had greatly increased need for school repairs in recent years. Mr. Sharpe added that the inability of the District repair shop to keep up with both school repairs and other demands was bringing criticism upon the School Board that it does not deserve. Both the members declared that a separate school repair shop could remedy the situation.

A second phase of the repairs investigation was the high cost of buildings let out to private contractors. Mr. Draper admitted the costs were "intrinsically excessive."

Dr. Gannon said that he also would recommend to the board that all contracts be scrutinized by school officials as well as the Commissioners before signed.

Dr. Gannon also inquired why resurfacing of blackboards in some old buildings cost \$1,900; why moving a partition at the Franklin School cost \$232, and electric outlets at Central High School cost \$371.

All this work was done by the District repair shop, Mr. Draper said, and none of the expense was excessive in view of difficulties encountered on the jobs.

Private Contractors Pay More.

The committee got from Mr. Draper a comparison of labor costs in the repair shop and on jobs done by private contractors. The repair shop pays its painters an average of \$9.50 a day for a 40-hour week, with 26 days' leave, 15 days' sick leave and holidays considered as working days. Mr. Draper said. The private contractor pays his painter about \$13.76 a day for 40 hours and then \$2.78 for each hour over 40, Mr. Draper said.

None of the 28 District painters is at present working on overtime, despite the press of jobs, because he must stop his work within his operating budget, Mr. Draper said. The private contractor pays his men more, but on the other hand does not offer steady work, Mr. Draper pointed out.

Mr. Draper testified that of his 28 painters, at least 17 are now engaged at Gallinger Hospital jobs and the others are on school jobs. Mr. Sharpe objected to this as unfair to the schools, in view of the high proportion of school work. He also branded as unfair the fact that all school shop trucks doing work for all Government buildings are charged to the \$127,500 school repair budget.

New Bill to Consolidate
D. C. Police Is Planned

Members of the Police and Fire Subcommittee of the House District Committee are scheduled to meet in executive session tomorrow to draft a new version of the Herbert bill to consolidate the Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the District Police Department.

Considerable changes in the measure proposed by Representative Herbert, Democrat, of Louisiana, will be considered, it was indicated, as a result of information developed at recent hearings.

Spokesman, Secretary of Interior Ickes, who has supervision over the Park police, has maintained the specialized Park police are necessary in park management. Mr. Herbert, however, is believed to have a report, among subcommittee members, for two contingents: That the Metropolitan Police should have an entirely free hand in dealing with any offenses committed in park areas, and that the Federal Government, instead of the District, should pay for services under Federal instead of municipal control.

Tomorrow's executive session was called by Subcommittee Chairman McMillan.

30 of 50 Seized at Bath
Forfeit Collateral of \$25

Thirty of 50 men arrested early yesterday by the vice squad in the Riggs Turkish Baths, 1400 block of G street N.W., have forfeited \$25 collateral each posted after being taken into custody, according to police.

After the raid by the squad under Lt. Roy Black, the men arrested were charged with disorderly conduct. The raid had been staged after complaints by members of the armed forces, police said.

Lt. Black said the raid was made two hours after a vice squad policeman, posing as a patron, entered the bathhouse to gain evidence. According to Lt. Black, several out-of-town physicians and lawyers, a naval officer, a member of the British Royal Artillery and a "minor member" of the diplomatic corps were among those rounded up.

About 25 detectives and precinct police took part in the raid.